

Deepening and measuring the societal impact of research	
Code	06RE0013-5
Type of activity	Seminar in person
Dates	07/05/2026
Time	9:00-14h
Duration	5 hours
Place	209 de l'ETSE (edifici E1). Sescelades
Free seats	20
Target groups	PhD students, MFP-COFUND Programme
Trainer	Aitor Gómez González
Language	English

Description

The impacts of any project can only be measured in comparison to some base case. That base case should be a realistic representation of past, current, or possible future conditions. The Broader Impacts criterion encompasses the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes. In this sense, measuring societal impact in the short, medium, and long term is directly related to achieving a broader impact, highlighting the transferability and sustainability of our research projects.

The European Commission's Framework Program has established societal impact as one of the items to be evaluated in the future Framework Programs. Emphasis is also being placed on the fact that the research funded in these programs must transcend beyond the academic/scientific field and contribute to impact pathways such as 1) achieving the global goals (Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations); 2) achievement of R&I missions; 3) citizen involvement; and 4) collection of impactful policy proposals.

Within the strategy of societal impact of research at Rovira i Virgili University, which has already positioned itself towards societal impact, activities are designed to maximize the societal impact of research projects, and to involve stakeholders, offering the necessary tools for this purpose. It is still difficult to know how to measure and make visible the societal impact of their research, but there are already ways to do it. For this reason, and to be able to assess research teams for both projects in the process of finalization and future projects, following the European Union perspective, the main objective of this seminar is to support research staff in designing, orienting research, and planning activities to achieve an outstanding societal impact, offering tools to acquire key competences to design competitive research with impact.

Objectives

- To deepen the conceptualization of the scientific, political, and societal impact of research.
- To know and make visible the societal impact of research, and to make visible the research that has contributed to societal impact.
- To guide the research to achieve the expected societal impact by establishing "Key Performance Indicators" (KPI) to measure progress and results.
- Analyse which methodologies can lead us to increase the societal impact of our actions.

Contents

Visibility and transfer of research societal impact.

- Conceptualization of the scientific, policy and societal impact of research. Constructing social impact considering the accumulation of previous research results.
- Evaluation of the societal impact of research.
- Measuring the social impact of research.

Methodology

This course uses a blended methodology. There are 5 hours of face-to-face teaching, held at the URV campus Sescelades.

The first part of the session will be a lecture on the main concepts related to social impact.

In the second part of the session, we will work on measuring social impact in an ex-ante way with practical examples.

Evaluation and certification

Practical tasks and discussion participation. Those participants who attend the course will receive a certificate of attendance.